

House Resolution 108 - Introduced

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 108

BY GASSMAN

1 A Resolution recognizing July 16, 2016, as Iowa Atomic
2 Veterans Day.

3 WHEREAS, as a result of the Manhattan Project, the
4 United States conducted the Trinity nuclear test, the
5 first detonation of a nuclear device, in New Mexico on
6 July 16, 1945; and

7 WHEREAS, over 200,000 American service members,
8 including Iowans, participated in aboveground nuclear
9 tests between 1945 and 1962, were part of the United
10 States military occupation forces in Japan in or around
11 Hiroshima and Nagasaki before 1946, or were held as a
12 prisoner of war in or near Hiroshima or Nagasaki; and

13 WHEREAS, Iowans have been exposed to radiation due
14 to their work at the Ames Laboratory at Iowa State
15 University as part of the Manhattan Project and at the
16 Burlington Atomic Energy Commission Plant at the Iowa
17 Army Ammunition Plant located in Des Moines County; and

18 WHEREAS, these atomic veterans, both military and
19 civilian, may have been exposed to radiation as a
20 result of their service and, due to that exposure, may
21 have developed cancer or other medical conditions; and

22 WHEREAS, many atomic military veterans were
23 prevented by secrecy laws or oaths from seeking medical
24 care or disability compensation from the United States
25 Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for conditions
26 they may have developed as a result of radiation
27 exposure; and

28 WHEREAS, in 1996, the United States Congress

1 repealed the Nuclear Radiation and Secrecy Agreements
2 Act, freeing atomic military veterans to describe their
3 military involvement in nuclear testing in order to
4 file for VA benefits; and

5 WHEREAS, atomic military veterans may be eligible
6 for free medical care from the VA and compensation
7 in the form of a partial or full service-connected
8 disability allowance, including potential payments to
9 a surviving spouse or children; and

10 WHEREAS, the National Association of Atomic Veterans
11 was formed in 1979 to help atomic military veterans
12 obtain medical care and assistance; and

13 WHEREAS, it is altogether fitting and proper that
14 atomic veterans be recognized for their service and
15 sacrifice to the nation; NOW THEREFORE,

16 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, That
17 the House of Representatives recognizes July 16, 2016,
18 as Iowa Atomic Veterans Day.